

What is claimed is:

1. A seat belt retractor for winding and unwinding a seat belt, comprising:

a spool for winding and unwinding the seat belt,

5 a locking mechanism having a locking member attached to the spool to be rotatable therewith in a normal state and capable of locking the spool in an emergency state,

a torsion bar disposed between the spool and the locking member for absorbing kinetic energy of a passenger when the spool rotates in a direction that the seat belt is withdrawn relative to the locking member in an emergency situation,

a stopper screwed in a shaft of the locking member to be movable in an axial direction along the shaft of the locking member when the spool rotates relative to the locking member, said stopper locking the spool not to rotate when the locking member locks the stopper not to move in the axial direction, and

an energy-absorption member disposed on one of the stopper and the locking member and situated between the stopper and the locking member for shear-deformation when the stopper moves in the axial direction along the shaft of the locking member.

2. A seat belt retractor according to claim 1, wherein said energy-absorption member has one of a column shape, prism shape, and tabular shape.

3. A seat belt retractor according claim 1, wherein said torsion bar and energy-absorption member are disposed separately.

4. A seat belt retractor according to claim 1, further comprising a cutter disposed on one of the stopper and the

locking member for cutting the energy-absorption member when the stopper moves along the shaft of the locking member.

5. A seat belt retractor according to claim 4, wherein said  
5 cutter includes an edge having an acute angle.